United Nations E/C.19/2004/5/Add.11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2004

Original: English

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**
**Third session**
New York, 10-21 May 2004
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
**Mandated areas**

# Information received from the United Nations system

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Addendum**

## Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

* E/C.19/2004/1.

04-26416 (E) 300304

*Executive summary*

The present report provides information relating to the proposals made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues relating to human rights or that are of relevance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report also makes reference to activities that it has undertaken in the last 12 months that may be of interest to the Forum. A copy of the recommendations of the discussion day on indigenous children organized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child is contained in the annex to the report.

1. In its report to the Economic and Social Council on its second session (E/2003/43, E/CN.19/2003/22), under the chapter "Matters brought to the attention of the Council", the Permanent Forum identifies more than 120 proposals, objectives, recommendations or areas of possible future action principally addressed to the United Nations system. Section 5 of the report, contains 12 paragraphs, specifically relating to human rights. Certain other recommendations under the sections "indigenous children and youth", "environment", "health" and "future work of the Forum" also contain references to the OHCHR or the human rights mechanisms serviced by the Office. The present report provides information on the status of those recommendations relevant to the OHCHR.

A. Information relating to requests made directly to OHCHR

2. In paragraph 83 of the report, the Forum recommends that effective cooperation be established between the Forum, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the special rapporteurs who address issues relating to indigenous peoples and in paragraph 84 invites the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to participate annually at its sessions. In paragraph 86 of the report, the Forum underlines the importance for country-specific special rapporteurs, thematic special rapporteurs, experts and representatives of the Commission on Human Rights to pay special attention to the situation of indigenous peoples. In paragraphs 16, 17, 25, 74, 77 and 78, recommendations are addressed to specific thematic special rapporteurs.

3. Cooperation among the three afore-mentioned mechanisms was further developed during the period. Representatives of the Permanent Forum were invited to take part at the twenty-first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and both the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations participated in the second session of the Permanent Forum and it is anticipated that such participation will be maintained for the future so that the formal and informal exchanges that these occasions provide can ensure that full advantage is taken of the respective mandates dedicated to indigenous peoples.

4. The country-specific and thematic special rapporteurs in their country missions meet with governmental officials and non-governmental representatives including indigenous people as appropriate. In certain reports, this has led to the inclusion of information about indigenous situations in the country concerned. OHCHR transmitted the requests of the Forum addressed to specific thematic mandate holders for their consideration and copies of the Permanent Forum report were presented at the annual meeting of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives in June 2003.

5. Since the presentation of his first report, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people has continued gathering information on the situation of the human rights of indigenous peoples, following developments in the United Nations system, participating in international and national-level conferences and research seminars, evaluations, training workshops and the like that deal directly with the issues of his mandate, and has undertaken research on some of the major issues affecting indigenous peoples which he laid out in his first report (E/CN.4/2002/97, para. 113).

6. He has also carried out two official country missions, to Mexico (1-18 June 2003) and Chile (18-29 July 2003). The Special Rapporteur has continued paying special attention to the situation of indigenous women and

children when visiting countries including specific gatherings to hear their concerns. The country mission reports are contained in documents E/CN.4/2004/80/Add.2 and Add.3, respectively. Moreover, at the invitation of the First Nations of Canada he visited that country in May 2003 and at the invitation of the Sami Parliament he visited northern Norway and Finland in October 2003, to observe the situation of indigenous peoples in both areas.

7. In addition, the Special Rapporteur attended the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, May 2003) and transmitted a statement to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for its day of special discussions on indigenous children (Geneva, September 2003). He has also taken part in events and lectured at academic institutions on different aspects of his mandate. On the occasion of the United Nations Human Rights Day (10 December), the Special Rapporteur joined other mechanisms in a statement strongly condemning all acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate, or have cooperated with the United Nations or representatives of its human rights bodies, including indigenous groups and leaders. Furthermore, he has continued developing contacts with numerous indigenous and human rights organizations around the world and strengthening cooperation with United Nations bodies and agencies. He is especially grateful to the Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, United Nations agencies, research institutions and concerned individuals who responded positively to his appeal for information.

8. The Special Rapporteur receives also a large number of communications providing him with information about allegations of violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. The main sources of these communications are non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other United Nations procedures concerned with the protection of human rights. He analyses such information and decides whether or not to take action. The main type of communications sent by the Special Rapporteur is "urgent appeals" in cases of imminent dangers of violations of the human rights of individuals, or even entire indigenous communities. He also transmits "allegation letters" to Governments on cases of less urgent character. As a general rule, both urgent appeals and letters of allegation remain confidential until published in the annual report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights. A summary of such communications and the replies received from the concerned State are formally included in the Special Rapporteur's annual report to the Commission.

9. This year the Special Rapporteur presents to the Commission a summary of the communications received and letters received from Governments over the year, an overview of the legal framework taking into account the type of cases received since his appointment as well as a brief reference to other activities carried out during the period under revision (E/CN.4/2004/80/Add1). During the period under review, the Special Rapporteur has transmitted urgent appeals and/or letters of allegations alone or jointly with other human rights mechanism of the Commission on Human Rights to 13 Governments. The joint actions were taken with the Representative of the Secretary General on Human rights Defenders, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the working group on arbitrary detention respectively.

10. The period under review has shown an increase in the number and substance of the communications received by the Special Rapporteur, partially as a result of the strategy designed to make the mechanism better known to the communities which involved the launching of an information note on the mandate including a model for submitting information for the Special Rapporteur's attention. This note has helped indigenous peoples to understand the possible scope and limitations of the mandate. The focus of the next report of the Special Rapporteur will be indigenous peoples and education.

11. In paragraph 85 of the report, the Forum recommends that the Secretary-General prepare, in several stages, an analytical study on the ways in which indigenous issues have been addressed in Charter-based mechanisms and treaty bodies. The Forum propose that the study begin by considering reports of States Parties submitted under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

12. In order to comply with the recommendation of the Permanent Forum, it would be necessary for the request to be endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the financial implications determined before action could be taken by the OHCHR. Notwithstanding, considerable information about the work of the treaty bodies exists in the database established by the Office which may consulted on the website www.unhchr.ch. Furthermore, the attention of the Forum is drawn to an academic study written by a former treaty-body member, Professor Patrick Thornberry, which provides detailed analysis of how the treaty bodies have dealt with indigenous issues (Patrick Thornberry, Indigenous peoples and human rights, Manchester University Press, 2002).

13. In paragraph 87 of the report, the Forum addresses recommendations to States regarding the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. At its ninth session, the Chairperson of the working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples invited the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum to address the meeting and express his views in relation to progress on the elaboration of the declaration. Furthermore, Miguel Alfonso-Martinez, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Ole Henrik Magga, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Sergio Vieira de Mello, the late High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the Chairperson- Rapporteur of the working group on the draft declaration on 20 May 2003 to appeal to him to make every effort to finish the draft declaration as a matter of urgency.

14. In paragraph 88, the Forum refers to human rights violations in two countries. Both cases were taken up by the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people and further information in this respect is contained in his report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/80/Add.1).

15. In paragraphs 89 and 90, the Forum welcomes and supports the decisions by the Commission on Human Rights that the OHCHR organize two seminars on indigenous peoples and the administration of justice and on indigenous peoples and treaties (Commission resolution 2003/56 and decision 2003/117). The seminar on the administration of justice and indigenous peoples was held in Madrid in cooperation with the Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia from 12 – 14 November 2003.The seminar on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between indigenous peoples and States was held in Geneva from 15 – 17 December 2003. The conclusions and recommendations of both seminars were presented to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session (E/CN.4/2004/80/Add.4 and E/CN.4/2004/111). The full reports will be submitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its twenty-second session. Representatives of the Forum actively participated in both seminars.

16. In paragraph 91, the Forum recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child request States Parties to the Convention to include in their reports information pertaining to the situation of indigenous children. Further references to indigenous children having a relevance to the work of the OHCHR are contained in paragraphs 5 (a), 6, 7, 16, 17, 24 and 25.

17. On 19 September 2003, the Committee on the Rights of the Child held a special discussion day on indigenous children with the participation of UN agencies, indigenous representatives, members of the Permanent Forum and non-governmental organizations. The summary record of the discussions is contained in document CRC/C/SR.899 and the report of the session is contained in document CRC/C/133 (§624). The recommendations of the discussion day are attached as an annex to the present report. In the recommendations, States are strongly reminded of their obligations under articles 2 and 30 of the Convention to promote and protect the human rights of indigenous children. Special Rapporteurs dealing with child-related issues were informed of the Forum's recommendations by OHCHR and encouraged to take the situations of indigenous children into account in their work.

18. In paragraph 93 of the report, the Forum recommends the OHCHR to organize activities with indigenous peoples in Africa and Asia with a view to providing human rights training, encourage dialogue between States and indigenous peoples and promote inter-agency consultation with States and indigenous peoples. The activities requested by the Forum were included in the Annual Appeal of OHCHR for 2003 (page 120). However, no funds were earmarked by donors for their implementation.

19. In paragraph 51, the Forum recommends that the UN system, particularly the OHCHR and UNEP organize a workshop on resource extraction and indigenous peoples to further discuss such issues as corporate responsibility. OHCHR has included the activity in its 2004 Annual Appeal (page 113) and subject to funding being made available will organize the workshop during the year.

20. In paragraph 81, the Forum recommends that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations undertake a study on the practices of genocide and ethnocide perpetrated on indigenous peoples. The recommendation was brought to the attention of the Working Group and as the principal theme of the 2004 Working Group is "indigenous peoples and conflict resolution", the concern may be taken up on that occasion.

21. In paragraph 124, the Forum urges Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Appeals are made to governments by the members of the Board of Trustees at the annual sessions of the Voluntary Funds as well as at the Commission on Human Rights with the request that contributions be made to support activities relating to indigenous peoples. Most recent information on the activities of the two Funds is contained in document E/CN.4/2004/79.

B. Information related to general requests addressed to UN system

22. In paragraph 122, the Forum recommends that a workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples be organized. The workshop was held from 19 – 21 January 2004 and the OHCHR was invited to present an expert paper on the subject from a human rights perspective. OHCHR underlined the importance of developing a conceptual framework for the elaboration of rights based indicators, which would allow for the measurement of dimensions relevant for indigenous peoples.The paper is available on the OHCHR website www.unhchr.ch/indigenous.

23. In paragraph 45, the Forum recommends that the Economic and Social Council authorize a working group on free, prior informed consent and participatory research guidelines. In this respect, it may be noted that the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues decided to request UNDP to coordinate an inter-agency paper on free, prior and informed consent for the consideration of the Forum at its third session. OHCHR submitted information for inclusion in the paper. Furthermore, the Forum may wish to take into account the decision of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and subsequently endorsed by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to prepare a legal commentary on the principle for consideration at its twenty-second session in July 2004.

24. In paragraph 116, the Forum notes the need for capacity-building in national and local government as well as indigenous communities in the areas within the Forum's mandate. OHCHR as the lead UN body responsible for human rights has established a number of activities for human rights training particularly but not exclusively aimed at indigenous peoples. These activities include the Indigenous Fellowship Programme now in its ninth year which also includes a Spanish-speaking component organized in cooperation with the Institute for Human Rights of the University of Deusto, Bilbao, and a French-speaking component organized in cooperation with the University of Bourgogne, Dijon. In 2002, the OHCHR organized a pilot human rights training workshop to determine the viability of a new programme for "Community-led human rights training of indigenous peoples". The further development of the programme is planned for 2004 (see Annual Appeal 2004). In addition to these OHCHR generated programmes, a number of specific human rights training projects presented by indigenous organizations are assisted through the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

C. Other information regarding recent activities relating to indigenous peoples

25. The principal theme of the twenty-first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in July 2003 was "indigenous peoples and globalization". Of interest to the Forum may be the decisions taken by the Working Group in relation to its twenty-second session. Members of the Working Group agreed that the principal theme of the twenty-second session would be "indigenous peoples and conflict resolution" and between them would prepare working papers in the following areas: a review of the draft principles and guidelines on the heritage of indigenous peoples; indigenous peoples and globalization; free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in relation to development affecting their lands and natural resources that would serve as a framework for the drafting of a legal commentary; the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in States threatened with environmental extinction; indigenous peoples and conflict resolution. The report containing a summary of the discussions at the twenty-first session of the Working Group as well as the conclusions and recommendations is available as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/22.

26. The ninth session of the working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was held in Geneva from 15 – 26 September 2003. The report of the working group is available as document E/CN.4/2004/81.

27. The International Decade of the World's Indigenous People concludes in December 2004. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2003/306, requests the Secretary-General to initiate a review of the International Decade and report to it at its July 2004 session. In its resolution 58/158, the General Assembly also requests the Secretary-General to report on the International Decade. In addition to these formal reviews of the International Decade, the OHCHR will organize consultations in the course of the year to evaluate the Decade in connection with human rights meetings, including the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the third session of the Permanent Forum, the twenty-second session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the tenth session of the working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. An indigenous forum to evaluate the International Decade and identify future challenges will be held in Barcelona on 10 August 2004. It is expected that OHCHR would be in a position to provide comprehensive information on the Decade at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum.

28. OHCHR is currently carrying out a joint research project with UN Habitat as part of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme on the topic "Indigenous peoples and the right to adequate housing: a global overview". The report covers issues such as international law pertaining to indigenous peoples and the right to adequate housing and includes cases studies which assess the present gap between existing rights and the reality. A summary with the preliminary findings will be presented at the Forum at its third session. The final report is expected to be available at the end of 2004.

D. Information and suggestions regarding special theme "indigenous women"

29. The OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms supported by the Office pay special attention to indigenous women. As noted in paragraph 6 of the present report, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people has included in his country visits specific activities to gather information relating to indigenous women in accordance with the request by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2001/57. The Office endeavours to ensure gender balance among participants at its meetings and it is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to implement to the extent possible this important principle of the United Nations when it is recommending travel grants for indigenous representatives. Notwithstanding, indigenous women are underrepresented as candidates for travel grants and in some cases indigenous organizations do not include female indigenous representatives in their applications. As a consequence, in 2003 the Voluntary Fund assisted 34 indigenous women and 46 indigenous men to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and 5 indigenous women and 10 indigenous men to the working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. In relation to the Indigenous Fellowship Programme established by OHCHR in 1997, 28 of the 58 fellows admitted to the programme have been indigenous women.

E. Other information

30. The OHCHR focal point on indigenous issues is the Indigenous and Minorities Unit, Research and Right to Development Branch. Information and documentation relating to indigenous peoples, application forms for the Indigenous Fellowship Programme and the two Voluntary Funds for indigenous peoples, as well as a calendar of the principal events organized by the Office can be found on the OHCHR website www.unhchr.ch.

Annex

3 October 2003

**COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 34th Session**
**15 September - 3 October 2003**

## DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Preamble*

Recalling that article 30 and articles 17 (d) and 29.1 (c) and (d) of the Convention of the Rights of the Child are the only provisions of an international human rights instrument to explicitly recognize indigenous children as rights-holders, and

In light of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People pertaining to children contained in his annual and mission reports to the UN Commission on Human Rights,

Following the request of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold a discussion day on the rights of indigenous children in order to promote greater awareness of the rights of indigenous children (E/2002/43 part I), and in light of the Permanent Forum's recommendations on the rights of indigenous children adopted during its first two sessions in 2002 and 2003,

In view of the 1994-2004 International Decade of the World's Indigenous;

Taking into account the International Labour Organization's Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries,

Recognizing the ongoing work of the open-ended inter-sessional UN Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations regarding issues such as self-determination, land rights and other collective rights,

And although indigenous children are disproportionately affected by specific challenges such as institutionalization, urbanization, drug and alcohol abuse, trafficking, armed conflict, sexual exploitation and child labour and yet are not sufficiently taken into consideration in the development and implementation of policies and programmes for children,

The Committee on the Rights of the Child:

*General*

1. Strongly recalls the obligations of States parties under articles 2 and 30 of the Convention to promote and protect the human rights of all indigenous children.

2. Reaffirms its commitment to promote and protect the human rights of indigenous children by addressing more systematically the situation of indigenous children under all relevant provisions and principles of the Convention when periodically reviewing State party reports.

3. Calls on States parties, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank and regional development banks, and civil society to adopt a broader rights-based approach to indigenous children based on the Convention and other relevant international standards such as ILO Convention 169, and encourages the use of community-based interventions in order to ensure the greatest possible sensitivity to the cultural specificity of the affected community. Particular attention should also be paid to the variety of situations and conditions in which the children live.

4. Acknowledges that, as stated in the Human Rights Committee's General Comment No. 23 on the rights of minorities (1994) and in ILO Convention 169, the enjoyment of the rights under article 30, in particular the right to enjoy one's culture, may consist of a way of life which is closely associated with territory and use of its resources. This may particularly be true of members of indigenous communities constituting a minority.

Information, data and statistics

5. Requests States parties, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, in particular UNICEF and the ILO, the World Bank and regional development banks, and civil society including indigenous groups, to provide the Committee with specific information on laws, policies and programmes for the implementation of indigenous children's rights when the Committee reviews the implementation of the Convention at country level.

6. Recommends that States parties strengthen mechanisms for data collection on children so as to identify existing gaps and barriers to the enjoyment of human rights by indigenous children, and with a view to developing legislation, policies and programmes to address such gaps and barriers.

7. Encourages greater research, including the development of common indicators, into the situation of indigenous children in rural and urban areas by UN human rights mechanisms, UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds, international organizations, civil society and academic institutions. In this regard, the Committee requests all interested parties to consider initiating a global study on the rights of indigenous children.

Participation

8. In light of article 12, as well as articles 13 to 17, of the Convention, recommends that States parties work closely with indigenous peoples and organizations to seek consensus on development strategies, policies and projects aimed at implementing children's rights, and set up adequate institutional mechanisms involving all relevant actors and provide sufficient funding to facilitate the participation of children in the design, implementation and evaluation of these programmes and policies.

Non-discrimination

9. Calls on States parties to implement fully article 2 of the Convention and take effective measures, including through legislation, to ensure that indigenous children enjoy all of their rights equally and without discrimination, including equal access to culturally appropriate services including health, education, social services, housing, potable water and sanitation.

10. Recommends that States parties, international organizations and civil society strengthen efforts to educate and train relevant professionals working with and for indigenous children on the Convention and the rights of indigenous peoples.

11. Recommends that State parties, with the full participation of indigenous communities and children, develop public awareness campaigns, including through the mass media, to combat negative attitudes and misperceptions about indigenous peoples.

12. Requests States parties, when updating the Committee on measures and programmes undertaken to follow up on the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to provide specific and detailed information on the situation of indigenous children.

*Law and public order including juvenile justice*

13. To the extent compatible with articles 37, 39 and 40 of the Convention and other relevant UN standards and rules, the Committee suggests that States parties respect the methods customarily practised by indigenous peoples for dealing with criminal offences committed by children when it is in the best interests of the child.

14. Requests the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People to pay particular attention to juvenile justice issues in his report on indigenous people and the administration of justice to be submitted to the 60" session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2004.

*Right to identity*

15. Calls on States parties to ensure the full implementation of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention for all indigenous children, by inter alia,
   a) ensuring the existence of a free, effective and universally accessible birth registration system;
   b) allowing indigenous parents to give their children a name of their own choosing, and by respecting the right of the child to preserve her/his identity;
   c) taking all necessary measures to prevent indigenous children from being or becoming stateless.

16. Recommends that States parties take all necessary measures to ensure that indigenous children enjoy their own culture and can use their own language. In that regard, States parties should pay particular attention to article 17 (d) of the Convention which calls on States parties to encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who is indigenous.

*Family environment*

17. Recommends that States parties take effective measures to safeguard the integrity of indigenous families and assist them in their child-rearing responsibilities in accordance with articles 3, 5, 18, 20, 25 and 27.3 of the Convention. For the purpose of designing such policies, the Committee recommends that States parties collect data on the family situation of indigenous children, including children in foster care and adoption processes. The Committee recommends that maintaining the integrity of indigenous families and communities be a consideration in development programmes, social services, health and education programmes affecting indigenous children. The Committee reminds States parties, in cases where it is in the best interest of the child to be separated from his or her family environment, and no other placement is possible in the community at large, institutionalization should only be used as a last resort and be subject to a periodic review of placement. In accordance with art. 20.3 of the Convention, due regard shall be paid to ensuring continuity in the child's upbringing and to his or her religious, cultural, ethnic and linguistic background.

*Health*

18. Recommends that States parties take all necessary measures to implement the right to health of indigenous children, in view of the comparatively low indicators regarding child mortality, immunization and nutrition that affect this group of children. Special attention should also be paid to adolescents regarding drug abuse, alcohol consumption, mental health and sex education. The Committee also recommends States parties to develop and implement policies and programmes to ensure equal access for indigenous children to culturally appropriate health services.

*Education*

19. Recommends that States parties ensure access for indigenous children to appropriate and high quality education while taking complementary measures to eradicate child labour, including through the provision of informal education where appropriate. In this regard, the Committee recommends that States parties, with the active participation of indigenous communities and children:

   a) review and revise school curricula and textbooks to develop respect among all children for indigenous cultural identity, history, language and values in accordance with the Committee's General Comment no. I on the aims of education;

   b) implement indigenous children's right to be taught to read and write in their own indigenous language or in the language most commonly used by the group to which they belong, as well as in the national language(s) of the country in which they live;

c) undertake measures to effectively address the comparatively higher drop out rates among indigenous youth and ensure that indigenous children are adequately prepared for higher education, vocational training and their further economic, social and cultural aspirations;

d) take effective measures to increase the number of teachers from indigenous communities or who speak indigenous languages, provide them with appropriate training, and ensure that they are not discriminated against in relation to other teachers;

e) allocate sufficient financial, material and human resources to implement these programmes and policies effectively.

*International cooperation and follow-up*

20. Encourages greater cooperation between human rights treaty bodies and UN mechanisms on indigenous issues.

21. Requests thematic and country-specific mandate holders of the Commission on Human Rights to pay special attention to the situation of indigenous children in their respective fields.

22. Recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People dedicate one of his annual reports to the Commission on Human Rights to the rights of indigenous children. The preparation of such a report should include a survey of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Committee's discussion day by all States parties to the Convention.

23. Encourages UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors to develop and support rights-based programmes for and with indigenous children in all regions.

24. Recognizing the strengths of indigenous communities to address many of the aforementioned issues, the Committee calls on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, to coordinate the elaboration of a set of best practices for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous children in consultation with relevant NGOs, indigenous experts and indigenous children.

*N.B: These recommendations are the result of the day of general discussion on the rights of indigenous children and do not pretend to be an exhaustive list of recommendations regarding all rights covered by the Convention.*